

BRIDGE crewmembers must meet certain criteria to be selected for the program, and they must perform at high levels in order to stay in once they get there. BRIDGE crewmembers are:

- ✎ 18 to 22 years of age
- ✎ In Grade A Health
- ✎ No history of serious assault on Record
- ✎ Minimum custody inmates with no escape attempts in the past year.
- ✎ Non-Sexually assaultive crime



Inmates who meet these eligibility requirements will be transferred to a BRIDGE camp and interviewed by Prisons and Forest Resources staff before final selection.



"...these young men are excellent examples of what a proper correctional program can achieve."

Robert E. Taylor, Clerk of Superior Court, Avery County, in a letter commending BRIDGE crewmen for painting the Clerk's Office.



For more information, contact the
N.C. Division of Forest Resources, (919) 733-2162.
Inmates who wish to be considered for the BRIDGE
program should contact their case manager.

James B. Hunt, Jr. Jonathan B. Howes Franklin Freeman
Governor Secretary Secretary

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YOUNG OFFENDERS FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

N.C. Division of Forest Resources
N.C. Division of Prisons



BUILDING
REHABILITATING
INSTRUCTING
DEVELOPING
GROWING
EMPLOYING

WHAT IS BRIDGE ?

The Young Offenders Forest Conservation Program offers selected inmates a broad variety of work and training experiences in a forestry setting; it is designed to provide valuable vocational skills that can help young inmates find their way into meaningful jobs rather than back into prison. The program also is known as BRIDGE, an acronym for its goals: Building, Rehabilitating, Instructing, Developing, Growing and Employing.



The Divisions of Forest Resources and Prisons created the program in 1986 -- to bolster North Carolina's firefighting resources. BRIDGE crewmembers are part of an elite firefighting force used during peak fire conditions in the Spring and Fall.



SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

BRIDGE provides on-the-job training in areas other than firefighting, giving crewmembers marketable skills which can make the difference in finding jobs after parole. When forest fires are not a threat, crewmembers put those skills to work on projects that often benefit the community.

BRIDGE offers hands-on experience in:

- Bulldozer and Tractor Operation
- Landscaping
- Saw Operations
- Trail Construction
- Light Carpentry
- Forest Tree Planting and Other
- Nursery Operations

"They don't just teach you trades, they teach you self-confidence, self-respect and self-discipline."

Tim Bryant, FORMER BRIDGE CREWMAN

SPECIAL INCENTIVES

To encourage successful participation in the BRIDGE program, inmates receive:

- An Incentive Wage (\$1.00 a day)
- Regular Gain Time and Emergency Gain Time
- Special Meals (on fires) and Clothing to Suit the Rugged Work
- Vocational Development Opportunities
- Educational Opportunities
- Job Reference

THE BEST OF BRIDGE



Once in the program, participants have the opportunity to join a special team of the best-qualified crewmen who serve on an elite "helitack" crew. These crewmen learn to fight fire from the air, riding in N.C. Forest Service helicopters to difficult-to-reach sections of the fire line -- the thick of the action!

But BRIDGE is much, much more!